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SOUTH BAY REFUGE NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

The proposed South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge may easily become a victim of the federal administration's fiscal retrenchment unless there should be an overwhelming demand upon Congress to act favorably on it. Loss of these specified refuge land parcels to developers would be tragic for the Bay Area and the nation. County boards of supervisors and city councils around the Bay have passed resolutions in favor of such a refuge.

ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCE—"Standing room only" was a novel situation for a local conservation conference, but that was just one of the several extraordinary and gratifying features of a conference on *Our Changing Environment* held at the brand new Oakland Museum and the Oakland Auditorium Theatre September 26-27. Over 2,000 persons of all ages, races, social and educational backgrounds packed the Theatre for the Saturday sessions opened by former Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall's keynote address.

It was significant of the assemblage and the mood that a college girl, Stephanie Mills of Mills College, should draw a greater ovation than any other speaker of the day. I am sure Mr. Udall would have approved heartily of this, had he stayed on to hear, for he was concerned about the generation gap. Udall drew his strongest applause when he predicted that after Vietnam, young protesters might picket industries causing pollution and might tear down billboards. He also criticized appropriations for the supersonic transport in an America addicted to speed, referred to San Francisco Bay as "a marvelous outdoor laboratory," mentioned threats of quarries on scenic lands, and quoted widely from John Muir to Ardrey's *African Genesis*.

Pesticides were the topic of the morning panel, where a brave Shell Oil Development scientist, Dr. Roy Hansberry, faced Doctors Ray F. Smith, Robert L. Rudd and John E. Swift of the University of California and Dr. John H. Phillips of the Stanford Hopkins Marine Station. Audubon members—and there were many "Golden Gaters"—were appalled to hear from Dr. Smith how he found only one young Brown Pelican on Anacapa Island (thin-shelled eggs) and from Dr. Rudd that the Western Grebes of Clear Lake were just beginning to breed successfully again, 15 years after the DDT spraying for gnats had entered the food chain. Across the U.S., a report on the recent lethal impact of DDT on the new Coho Salmon of

Lake Michigan further shook up the audience. Even the growers and the crops of California are suffering from DDT and other long-lasting spray residues—including heavy losses to essential bee colonies. Dr. Hansberry in defense pointed out the diminishing use of DDT and other long-residual sprays and how much time and money his company and others were devoting to research and production of better materials. Where spray hazards to consumers are concerned Dr. Rudd pointed out the ultimate responsibility rested on the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration, on the standards they set and their enforcement. How about more funds for these services?

Population, Pollution and Land Usage were subjects of the afternoon panel moderated by Alfred E. Heller of *California Tomorrow*. Congressman Jeffrey Cohelan was a surprise guest on this able panel, featuring Joseph E. Bodovitz of the BCDC, Dr. H. Thomas Harvey of San Jose State, William M. Roth, San Francisco industrialist, and Miss Stephanie Mills. Mr. Cohelan asked support for efforts to buy more Pt. Reyes Seashore lands and to create a National Council on Environmental Policy. Mr. Bodovitz pleaded for continued citizen support of the BCDC and expressed a conviction that local problems such as air-water pollution, transportation and zoning would require some kind of regional government.

More women in business and politics, more participation by everyone in politics and government, and free, legalized abortions to reduce populations were high points of Miss Mills' presentation. Dr. Harvey, after several gloomy predictions of Man's fate if present trends are not reversed, gave the conferees some excellent key phrases to use as "shoekers" elsewhere: **"This society may go down in history as the era when Man stood knee-deep in garbage and fired rockets at the moon"** and **"The freedom to breed threatens the freedom to breathe."**

Hundreds of teachers turned out Friday afternoon at 4:30, as well as on Saturday, to hear Dr. Paul S. Brandwein, noted educator and textbook author. Dr. Brandwein believes the next 20 years will determine Man's survival or extinction — that school teachers must demonstrate as well as teach children a respect for their total environment. "You cannot conserve the Sequoias unless you conserve the cities. . ." he said.

The Natural Sciences Guild of the Oakland Museum Association must be congratulated on the planning and success of this conference, where fees and lunch costs were kept low so all could afford to attend, where all listed speakers showed up, observed time schedules and had time for questions! A most remarkable record—this veteran conferee would note! And if you haven't seen the new museum, better hurry over there!—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM—An additional series has been commissioned by Lafayette Unified School District. It will be held in November at Spring Hill School, which has already started a nature area on the school grounds.



Grant's gazelle

National Audubon photo

VISIT "FABULOUS AFRICA" ON NOVEMBER 24

Edgar T. Jones will show us the magnificent wildlife of East Africa when he brings his new film to Berkeley at **8:15 p.m. Monday, November 24**, in King Junior High School Auditorium-Theatre. Kenya and Tanganyika, now Tanzania, provide the setting for a visit to the richest area left in the world for birds and mammals. Only on the Rift Valley Lakes of East Africa can flamingos be found in flocks of millions.

Twenty-three species of mammals highlight this film, ranging from the African elephant to the tiny dik dik antelope. Numerous species of tropical birds are also shown—the White-throated Bee Eater, Golden-winged Sunbird, Black-winged Plover and the Pigmy Falcon. From a low-flying plane,

Ed Jones photographed large herds of big game animals. His film includes many famous regions, such as the Ngorongoro Crater, the Plains of the Serengeti, Mount Kenya Safari Lodge and the Samburu Game Reserve. He made rare films of many of Africa's more unusual species—the little Rock Hyrax and the Red-billed Hornbill. Edgar Jones is not only a photographer and a naturalist, but a pilot and an artist as well. Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, he has traveled thousands of miles throughout the Canadian wilderness photographing wildlife. In 1955 he and another nature photographer, Professor Cy G. Hampson, founded the Alberta Wildlife Tours(now Foundation) to promote conservation education in Alberta.

Single admission at the door is \$1.50 for anyone not having a season ticket for the Audubon Wildlife Films. For students under 18 single admission is \$1. King Junior High School is on Rose Street at Grant, Berkeley. Proceeds support the conservation program of Golden Gate Audubon Society.

"THE BIZARRE WAYS OF OUR FUNGUS FRIENDS"

What fungi do and how they relate to all other organisms that share a forest or grassland community will be the topic of a slide presentation by Ron Russo at the Golden Gate Audubon Society meeting **Thursday, November 13**, in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

Ronald A. Russo is a Naturalist of the East Bay Regional Park District and has been photographing and collecting fungi in California for about nine years. He has recently completed a booklet on the ecology of mushrooms. "Brown Creepers, Wrentits, and Chickadees are fascinating to watch as they move through trees searching for food. Few people realize that the lives of these feathered beauties as well as all other terrestrial creatures depends upon the activities of the lowly fungi that thrive in forests and meadows. The story of mushrooms and related fungi is a story of trees, birds, flies, slugs, mountain lions and man."

The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.**, preceded by dinner at 6:30 in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins St., one block from the Natural Science Center. Visitors are welcome.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, November 2, Palo Alto Salt Marsh to study waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the duck pond near the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Take Embarcadero Road East off Bayshore Freeway 101. Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575, Palo Alto.

Sunday, November 23, Valeriate Ranch and Joice Island, Solano County. We shall caravan **promptly** from the parking lot in Fairfield's city park on West Texas St. (off Freeway 80) at **8:15 a.m.** Dr. and Mrs. Richard Valeriate have invited us to visit their ranch to hike through rolling hills and observe resident and wintering land birds. In the early afternoon we'll visit Joice Island for waterbirds and hopefully, with a 6-foot tide, we might be able to see rails at the edge of the marshes. Bring lunch. Leader, A. Warren Larson, 525-9149, Kensington.

Saturday, December 6, Doran Park and Bodega Marine Laboratory at Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, to study wintering ducks and shorebirds. On previous trips to this area we have seen Rock Sandpipers, which only casually winter in California. Wintering Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks are also occasionally seen here. Meet promptly at **9 a.m.** in first parking lot in Doran Park. Entrance fee, 50¢, requires quarters for automatic gate. Bring lunch and friends, and remember it can be breezy at this time of year. Leader, Dr. A. Laurence Curl.

Areas to visit in November: Sacramento Wildlife Refuge on Interstate 5 south of Willows for ducks, geese, swans. Register at headquarters before driving on levee roads. Visit California deserts to observe late migrating or wintering land birds. Locally, look for shorebirds with the receding tide on mudflats—*wherever Man has not covered them with garbage*. During very high tides (6 feet or more) November 9-13 and November 20-24 look for rails at the edge of marshes—*wherever Man has not filled them in*.

Read Paul Covell's conservation report.—MRS. VALERIA G. DA-COSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

IN MEMORIAM — PHYLLIS ZWEIGART

We deeply regret the loss of one of our long-time active Audubon board members—Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart. From July 1966 until her sudden death in September, she had been Golden Gate Audubon's Program Chairman, and had carefully planned ahead for programs through January, including one for May 1970. As an experienced field trip leader, Phyllis shared her extensive knowledge of plants and birds with new Audubon members and taught them to identify birds by their songs and calls. She also conducted a beginners' class in field identification for a local garden club. Phyllis volunteered to assist Phyllis Lindley with registration for the Audubon Nature Training Program, and she helped proofread *The Gull*. As a volunteer, she helped schedule hosts and hostesses for Audubon Canyon Ranch. A native Californian, she was a member of the California Native Plant Society, Save-the Redwoods League, Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, Planning and Conservation League, Save S.F. Bay, Regional Parks Association, California Roadside Council and other conservation organizations. Before her retirement, she was a University of California Laboratory Technician.

Phyllis Zweigart spent her last day birding in the Tilden Park Nature Area along one of her favorite trails.

NATIVE PLANT SALE—NOVEMBER 8

The California Native Plant Society will hold its annual plant sale on **Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, at the Brazilian Room in Tilden Park in the Berkeley Hills. This location, next to the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, makes it possible for everyone to see how native plants offered at the sale may be grown and fitted into a natural landscape. This is a unique sale because it is not easy to buy native plants in most nurseries. The proceeds will go toward the California Native

Plant Society's objectives of conservation, education, and preservation. Co-chairmen of the sale are Mrs. August Frugé and Mrs. Scott Fleming.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Shearwaters were not abundant off Monterey on the Sept. 6th boat trip as in other years. Counted were 130 Sooty and 35 Pink-footed Shearwaters; 4 Fulmars; 30 Black and 45 Ashy Petrels, 1 Fork-tailed Petrel (not often seen), 1 *Least Petrel*—first record for Northern California; 750 Arctic Terns; 20 Black-legged Kittiwakes; 45 Sabine's Gulls (some in breeding plumage); 7 Pomarine and 8 Parasitic Jaegers; 100 Northern and 35 Red Phalaropes; 200 Common Murres; 1 Tufted Puffin; 65 Cassin's Auklets and 6 Xantus' Murrelets. Before the trip began we had excellent views of a Marbled Murrelet at the wharf. *Few* marine mammals were seen throughout the day. Leaders were Alan Baldrige, Ted Chandik, Guy McCaskie, and Rich Stallcup.

The Sept. 13th Alameda shorebird trip led by Elsie Roemer had over 40 participants. In addition to numerous shorebirds we saw four species of terns: Elegant, Caspian, Forster's with young, and one Common. Alameda's South Shore is one of the few remaining local areas where we can see shorebirds in quantity and variety.—MRS. VALERIA G. D'ACOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR

The latest date reported for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron at San Rafael waterfront was Aug. 27, and the latest for the Little Blue Heron at San Rafael's Canal St. lagoon was Sept. 15.

Sept. 8—Sabine's Gull and Baird's Sandpiper reported by Bill Pursell at Rodeo Lagoon.

Sept. 10—An albino Red-tailed Hawk at Rodeo Lagoon. (Photographed several times during the month.)

Sept. 16—Parasitic Jaeger chasing Elegant and Forster's Terns at Bodega Bay. A Common Seoter joined White-winged and Surf in Bodega Harbor.

Sept. 20—Clark's Nutcracker at the "Sky Camp" in Pt. Reyes National Seashore observed by Richard Bambach from 10 feet away.

Sept. 22—Peetoral Sandpiper at Bodega Bay reported by Mrs. Bud Fry.

Sept. 26—Marbled Murrelet inside Bodega Harbor, Red-necked Grebe retaining summer plumage and 36 Elegant Terns at Bodega Bay. Also, one Elegant Tern at Salmon Creek north of Bodega Bay.

Sept. 28—Bill Pursell found a Vesper Sparrow at San Rafael near Canal St. lagoon.

Sept. 30—Pomarine Jaeger chasing terns near Limantour, Pt. Reyes Seashore, and Red Crossbill on Inverness ridge.

Oct. 1—White-throated Sparrow in Barbara and Jim Rasmussen's Berkeley garden (2nd year).

Oct. 5—Blackpoll Warbler at 12 feet near Moss Beach—Vi Homem. *Southern California*: On Sept. 8 Guy McCaskie found 24 Blue-footed and

4 Brown Boobies at Salton Sea. Sept. 12 Fred Webster found a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Goleta, north of Santa Barbara. Val DaCosta reported it was still there on Sept. 20. Val & Bob DaCosta and Bill Pursell observed a Canada Warbler and Palm Warbler at Thousand Palms on Sept. 19.

Observations from our *pelagic* Audubon member, W. Patrick Dunbar, on board a ship in the Pacific:

"On August 18 we were about 900 miles north of Honolulu—a lone Ruddy Turnstone flew around the ship for half an hour or so. Several times it approached as though to alight only to veer off at the last moment. I exposed several feet of movie film on it. After reading Peterson's description of a Long-tailed Jaeger, I'm convinced that is what I saw at 6:30 this morning (Aug. 23). At that time we were 300 miles west of Midway. I'm surprised I've not seen any Laysan Albatross, being so close to their breeding ground."

Sept. 20-21, about 750 miles north and east of Honolulu, he counted shearwaters flying south, and from his hourly tally he estimated 192,000 in a 200-mile stretch in 12 hours. On Sept. 25—"about noon and 140 miles or so from Midway I had a brief but fairly good view of a Frigatebird trying to catch flying fish." He photographed a Pale-footed Shearwater flying just ahead of the ship's bow.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Nature Training Program:*
In Memory of *Gift of*

Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart Bertha Underhill, Mr. & Mrs. Frank
 Essene, Vi & George Homem

Mrs. Junea Kelly and
 Amy Rheinhardt Mr. & Mrs. Alex Bozant

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch:*
In Memory of *Gift of*

Mrs. Phyllis Zweigart Gertrude Bialos, Inez Troxell,
 Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay Campbell

Donald A. Nelson Dena N. Frederic

Mrs. James Hanegan Mr. & Mrs. Lou Talbot,
 .. Mr. & Mrs. Walter McLaren

DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

A NEPAL BIRDING TRIP for 20 people will be led by Dr. Martin Griffin, Chairman of Audubon Canyon Ranch, and Dr. Robert Fleming of Katmandu in April 1970. For details write Mountain Travel, 6201 Medau Place, Oakland, CA 94611.

A CONFERENCE ON "POLITICS OF URBAN GROWTH" will include talks by Congressman Waldie and State Senators Alquist and Sherman on November 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Cañada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City.

SCHOLARLY BOOKS IN AMERICA, a quarterly annotated bibliography, includes Peter Alden's *Finding the Birds in Western Mexico* (Univ. of Arizona Press) and Crawford Greenewalt's *Bird Song: Acoustics and Physiology* (Smithsonian).



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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.